DIEV ET MON DROIT.

By the King.

¶ A Proclamation to declare, that all Ships carying Corne, or other Victuals, or any Munition of Warre, to, or for the King of *Spaine*, or any of his Subiects, shall be, and ought to be esteemed as lawfull Prize.

FOrasmuch as the many iniuries and indignities, obtruded vpon the Kings most excellent Maiestie, and his most deare and onely sister, and her children, and his royall father, of euer blessed memory, deceased, by the King of Spaine, vnder colour of treaties and alliances; the many violences offered by him, to diuers of his Maiesties Subiects, in taking, slaying, and ransoming diuers of them in a hostile manner, whilest they intended onely their Marchandise at Sea; The king of Spaines restlesse ambition to aspire to an vniuersall Monarchie, discouered to the whole world, to the disquieting of that peace, which other Princes, and States his neighbours, would gladly rest in and inioy; Haue, out of an vnauoidable necessitie, drawne his most excellent Maiestie, to take vp Armes against the said King, for the defence of himselfe, his Dominions, and Subiects, and of other Princes and States, his Confederates and Allies, there being none other safe meanes for the obtaining of an assured Peace to himselfe, and his Subiects, and to his Confederates, and Allies, which his Highnesse shall be euer most ready to imbrace, when with safety, and honour it may be had: his maiestie in his Princely wisedome and prouidence, foreseeing, that, whilest the said King of Spaine continueth in these termes and courses of hostilitie, it is neither agreeable with the rules of policie, or Law of nations, to permit the said King, or his subiects, to be furnished and supplied with Corne, Victuals, Armes, or prouision for his Shipping, Naue, or Armes, if the same can be preuented. For although these violent hostilities of the said King of Spaine, to the trouble of a great part of the Christian Dominions, are mightily maintained by the abundance of his treasure from the Indies, wherein he trusteth, and with the opinion whereof he is puffed vp: Yet it is manifest, that to maintaine his Armes, and renew his Shipping, his moneys, in their proper nature, would not suffice, if he were not continually supplied with Corne, & other Victuals, and furnished with Munition, and materials for Armes, and Shipping from forreigne countreis, whereof, neither his Indies, nor Spaine, nor any other part of his owne Dominions are able to serue; but the same are knowen to bee brought into Spaine, Portugall, Burgundie, and other his countreys, from other forreigne parts, not in his owne subiection, and that especially, from the Hans-townes, and Merchants of the North East Countreys, who for the desire of gaine, are contented to furnish the said King, though to their owne extreame hazzard, and preiudice of their neighbours, with all things requisite, to maintaine his vniust warres: For this cause, His Maiesty being, amongst other Princes and States, herein principally interessed, for the defence of himselfe, his Countreys, and Subiects, against the said King of Spaines great preparations of his Nauies, and Armies by Sea, and by Land; and his Maiesty being perswaded, that if such his prouisions for hostility, to be brought vnto him by Sea from forreigne parts, might be stayed, or interrupted, vntill the said King might bee disposed to liue in peace, His Maiestie might the sooner forbeare to continue His charge, in maintaining His forces, both by Sea and Land, which hee is now constrained yeerely to renew, onely for the iust defence of himselfe, and his Dominions, and of his Confederats, and Allyes:

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Doth by theſe preſents, by the aduice of his Priuie Counſel, notifie to all maner of perſons of all conditions, that ſhal ſend or cary into Spaine, Portugal, Burgundy, or any other the ſaid King of Spaines Countreys or Dominions, any maner of Graine or other Victuals, or any manner of Prouiſions, to ſerue to build, furniſh or Arme any Ships of warre, or any kind of Munition for the warre, or Materials for the ſame, being not of the nature of meere Merchandize, that, as it is lawfull for his Maieſtie, being a Monarch and Prince Soueraigne, and as other Kings in like caſes haue alwayes vſed to doe, Hee will not onely authorize his owne Admirals, and Captaines of his owne Ships of warre, ſeruing on the Seas, but will alſo allow and approoue all other his Subiects, to Arme their Ships at their will, and with them to impeach and arreſt all Ships, that ſhall Saile, either out of the Eaſt parts, or out of the Low-Countreys, or from any other Parts, with intention to paſſe to Spaine, Portugal, Burgundy, or any other the King of Spaines Countreys or Dominions, or to any the ſaid King of Spaines Ships, being on the Seas, hauing on Board any ſuch Graine, Victuall, or prouiſions of warre, or Furniture for ſhipping, or Materials for the ſame, and the ſame to bring into the next good Port, there to bee ordered, as Goods duely forfeited for the benefit of his Maieſtie, where his Maieſties Shippes ſhall arreſt the ſame, and to the benefit of ſuch others, as being not in his Maieſties wages, ſhall by their trauaile and aduenture haue ſtayed and arreſted ſuch Ships and Goods prohibited: Prouided, that all others, beſides the Captaines of his Maieſties owne Ships, that ſhall be diſpoſed to Arme their Ships for this purpoſe, ſhall firſt notifie their intent to the Lord high Admirall of England, making declaration of their condition, of their maner of ſhipping, of the Furniture thereof, of the number of men requiſite to ſerue therein, with their quantities of Victuall and Munition, and of all other things requiſite to bee certified to the Lord Admirall, which being by him allowed, thereupon the Owners of the ſaid Ships, and the Captaines and Conductors thereof, to bee bound, to his Maieſties vſe, in good ſummes of money for themſelues, and, as cauſe ſhall require, to the Lord Admirall, with ſufficient Sureties, that they doe their beſt endeuour, without fraud, for gaine or compoſition, to arreſt ſuch Ships, hauing, as is aboue ſayd, Graine, Victuall, Armes, Munition, or Furniture for ſhipping, or any Materials for the ſame, intended to bee caried to any of the ſayd King of Spaines Dominions, or Countreys, as aforeſaid, and likewiſe to bee bound, as is aforeſayd, that with the ſayd Ships, no harme ſhall bee wittingly done to any perſon on the Seas, being in friendſhip with his Maieſtie, and that ſhall not bee priuie to the cariage of any ſuch Graine, Victuall, Prouiſion, Furniture or Materials, into any the ſayd King of Spaines Dominions, or towards any of his Countreys, or to any the King of Spaines Ships being on the Seas: And in caſe any ſhall be found to haue committed any ſuch offence, whereby their Bonds ſhall bee forfeited, the parties damnified ſhall be fully recompenced for all their Loſſes and Damages, with the ſummes of money forfeited, and otherwiſe, as there ſhall bee cauſe, and the offendors alſo ſeuerely puniſhed, according to their offences, by due courſe of Law.

Giuen at Our Honour of Hampton Court, the 31. of December, in the firſt yeere of Our Reigne.

God ſaue the King.

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M.D C. XXV.

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